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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 11 JUNE 1991 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED RESPECTIVELY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the interview given recently by United States General Norman Schwarzkopf, which constitutes a confession setting forth the true purposes and objectives of the aggression, particularly on the part of the United States of America, which led the so-called "coalition" against Iraq. Even though this confession does not give all the revealed facts, it confirms the fact that the objective was to smash Israel's enemies and that the question of Kuwait was only a cover for intentions long antecedent to 2 August 1990.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir K. K. AL-NIMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Controversial interview with United States General Norman Schwarzkopf in which he reveals major secrets relating to the Gulf war

United States General Norman Schwarzkopf, Commander of the military Coalition forces against Iraq in the Gulf war, recently left Saudi Arabia for his own country, the United States. In this interview with a correspondent of Israeli Army Radio in Washington, General Schwarzkopf reveals some important secrets relating to the Gulf war and the Arab armies that participated in this war against Iraq. The text of the interview follows:

Question: General Norman Schwarzkopf, we thank you and congratulate you on the occasion of the great military victory you were able to achieve in the Gulf war.

Answer: It is I who thank you for your splendid stand in this war. This stand was a great help to us in the action we carried out against Saddam Hussein.

Question: But Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi President, was able to escape from your grasp. Were there serious and genuine intentions on your part to get the man, Saddam Hussein?

Answer: Yes. I was personally very concerned with eliminating not only Saddam Hussein's military machinery but eliminating Saddam Hussein himself. I indicated this in my daily notes that I diligently wrote during the days of the war. We had firm military plans to destroy the Iraqi military force present in Kuwait completely and then to advance into Iraq. According to our military plans, our forces were to arrive at the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, and oust Saddam Hussein from there. But this did not happen, and sometimes a feeling of regret and annoyance comes over me because the operation was not properly completed as planned from the outset.

Question: The air attack carried out by the aircraft of the military coalition against the Iraqis lasted for a long time, and it would have been possible for it to last several weeks longer. Was it necessary or was it not possible to launch the land war a few days after the air attacks? Do you believe that the successive air attacks lengthened the duration of the war?

Answer: We urgently needed such successive air attacks in order to strike at and destroy the Iraqi military structure. I believe that we would have come up against difficulties if we had proceeded to launch the land attacks without dense air cover. I personally am the one who took the decision regarding the commencement of the land attacks at a time when those in Washington wanted to continue the air attacks against the Iraqis for another month.

Question: The land war against the Iraqis lasted nearly (unclear) hours. Did you expect the land war to end so quickly or were you surprised by the results obtained in the field?

Answer: To be frank, I did not expect the land war to end in our favour as quickly as it did. There were even many commanders who were pessimistic, particularly on the eve of the battle of Khafji on the Saudi Arabian/Kuwaiti border. These commanders, or some of them, believed that the land war would last a long time, for example, for several weeks. On the morning of the battle of Khafji, one of the commanders - I will not give his name - came to me and said: "I believe, Sir, that we are in a jam and that the best thing would be to call in more American troops and strengthen our attack capabilities". I listened to this commander with anger and tried to explain to him that matters were in our hands and that we had full control of the situation.

Question: Were there any Arab forces participating in the fighting against the Iraqis, and will you tell us about that?

Answer: There were military forces from more than one Arab State, but they did not all actually participate in the fighting. I believe that the Egyptian combatants were the best of the Arab combatants who participated in the fighting against the Iraqis. What else would you like to know?

Question: You say that the Egyptian soldiers were the best of the Arab soldiers participating in the fighting against the Iraqis. Will you tell us, Sir, about the other soldiers?

Answer: All right. There was a Syrian military force, and we may say that the performance of its members was poor; they did not have adequate fighting experience. I believe that one of the Syrian military units participated, side by side with the Egyptian units, in opening up paths in the minefields laid by the Iraqis in Kuwait; through these paths some of the attacking forces were able to advance. As for the Saudis, they had no major role in the liberation of Kuwait. Although some Saudi tank battalions entered Kuwait, they were always in the rear, and some of the Saudi and Kuwaiti units that were in the forward lines held up our advance and we asked the commanders of these units to go back to the rear so that our men could perform properly. I want to say here that the performance of the Saudi and Kuwaiti soldiers was much worse than that of the Syrians. There were other Arab forces which did not take part in the fighting. The members of these forces abstained from firing a single shot against the Iraqis.

Question: Did the Egyptian military force have an offensive role inside Kuwait?

Answer: Yes, I believe so. They even managed to capture many Iraqi troops.

Question: How many members of the Arab forces, in your estimation, were killed by Iraqi fire?

Answer: Not a great many. But they had many wounded and many prisoners who fell into Iraqi hands. A few days before the beginning of the ground war a number of artillery shells fired by the Iraqis fell on a forward military position of the Egyptian military force killing or wounding more than 30 Egyptian officers and men, and the dead included a senior Egyptian officer ... a major or a colonel, I do not remember exactly.

Question: With regard to the list of non-conventional weapons recently declared by Iraq, do you believe that the list is genuine and that the Iraqis have told the truth and not concealed anything?

Answer: I imagine that these people have lied to us, since we have in our possession a large quantity of advanced non-conventional weaponry and equipment. Saddam Hussein assiduously built up an enormous military force over many years and established military and chemical installations and plants in various parts of Iraq. From the outset, this man was planning to engage in widescale military operations against his neighbours, not only to occupy the State of Kuwait. Saddam had the intention of extending his occupation to other countries in the region, and I am almost completely certain that he had decided to occupy Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and other countries.

Question: Do you believe, General, that the Iraqi President expected the painful and grievous consequences that the war he instigated would have?

Answer: I don't think he realized that. If Saddam Hussein had understood the consequences he would have begun to withdraw from Kuwait the week after his forces occupied it. It should be remembered that the United States Administration made very intensive efforts to persuade and urge Saddam Hussein to leave Kuwait and that none of those efforts were successful because of the intransigence of the Iraqi President, who believed that his forces could withstand the forces of the military coalition or, at least, prolong the war in the same way as the war in Viet Nam.

Question: Saddam Hussein tried to draw Israel into this war and almost succeeded in doing so. Would Israel's direct involvement in the war have damaged the interests of the United States?

Answer: Israel's direct participation in the Gulf war might have caused great harm to United States interests and objectives in the region. There can be no doubt that the Arab States which joined the coalition against Saddam Hussein, including Egypt, would have withdrawn, because it is unthinkable for an Arab army to participate in a war against another Arab army alongside the army of Israel. We [the Americans], when we requested Israel to refrain from intervening directly in the war, meant exactly what we said, even when your cities [the cities of Israel] were subjected to missile bombardment by Saddam Hussein's forces. The Saudis requested us on numerous occasions, as did other Arabs, to bring pressure to bear on Israel to prevent it from

intervening directly in the war. I believe that we did that, and we appreciate the position that Israel adopted and adhered to throughout the war.

Question: Israel could have provided practical and substantial assistance to the forces of the military coalition without going so far as to send military forces from the Israeli army, flying the Israeli flag, to the Gulf region. Israel is a friend and ally of the United States, and there has been joint military and security cooperation between the two countries for many years. You must know that full well.

Answer: Israel provided us with very valuable and important assistance in our war against Saddam Hussein. I do not want to reveal controversial details, but I should say that Israel provided us with much more than we asked from it. I, personally, am very satisfied with the ongoing joint cooperation between Washington and Tel Aviv, and I intend to visit Israel soon.

Question: Will this be your first visit to Israel?

Answer: By no means. I have visited Israel many times and I have many good friends in Israel: the Minister of Defence, Moshe Arens; the Director-General of the Ministry and former commander of the Israel Air Force, David Ivri; General Uri Simhoni, a former Israeli military attaché in Washington; General Yaron Ben-Amotz, another former military attaché in Washington; Ehud Barak, the Chief of General Staff of the Israeli Army; and Minister Sharon and others. I like to visit your country [Israel] and I intend to do so soon.

Question: Do you intend to leave the military and devote yourself to political activity?

Answer: Yes. I will do so soon, and I consider myself to be a friend of Israel and one of its constant supporters.

Question: Is there something that you would like to say to the Israelis, General?

Answer: I should like to say to them all that the United States is a country that is friendly towards you, that you can trust it and rely on it, and that it will not abandon you. America does not abandon its friends. The war fought by our men in the Gulf region against Saddam Hussein was for you, for Israel, and the men endeavoured to destroy your enemy, your [Israel's] major enemy in the region.